




THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Development Services Department  
Division of Building and Safety  
**Code Interpretations**

<b>Subject:</b> Unreinforced Masonry Building (URM) - Disabled Access Requirement		<b>Date:</b> November 1, 2005	
<b>Key Words:</b> URM, Seismic Retrofitting, Accessibility Provisions		<b>Code Section:</b> CBC Section 1134B, SDMC Section 145.0410	
<b>Investigated By:</b> Mehdi Shadyab		<b>Code:</b> CBC, SDMC	<b>Code Year:</b> 2001
<b>Approved By:</b> Isam Hasenin, Chief Building Official P.E., C.B.O		<b>Signature:</b> 	
<p><b>Question:</b> Are accessibility provisions triggered when a building is seismically retrofitted per the <u>mandatory</u> provisions of the City's URM Ordinance?</p>			
<p><b>Answer:</b> No.</p> <p>For seismic retrofits, strictly required by the mandatory provisions of the URM Ordinance, access upgrades are NOT required.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The scope of work required by the mandatory provisions (partial seismic retrofit) of the URM Ordinance includes roof parapet bracing, anchoring of the roof diaphragm and the URM walls, and removal or stabilization of exterior falling hazards. [SDMC Sec. 145.0410]. The area of work is a non-habitable area and therefore would not have an associated path of travel improvements as defined in Section 1134B of the California Building Code.</p>			
<p>This Code Interpretation is subject to change at any time. To determine if this interpretation is still current please call (619) 446-5400 or visit our website <a href="http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services">http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services</a></p>			

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